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Letter dated 29 May 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my report to the Security Council last November (S/2002/1259), I noted that the signing of an inclusive ceasefire agreement in Burundi would necessitate a review of the tasks entrusted by the Council to the United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB) and the resources to accomplish them.

Since then, the Transitional Government of Burundi has signed ceasefire agreements with the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) (Ndayikengurukiye) and the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People-National Liberation Forces (PALIPEHUTU-FNL) (Mugabarabona), on 7 October 2002, and with CNDD-FDD (Nkurunziza), on 2 December 2002. The only armed group that has not yet signed a ceasefire agreement with the Government is PALIPEHUTU-FNL (Rwasa). As members of the Council are aware, the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) is in the process of being deployed to assist with implementation of the ceasefire agreements.

You will recall that the Security Council had expressed its intention to support the immediate and full implementation of the ceasefire agreements in its presidential statement of 18 December 2002 (S/PRST/2002/40). It had also asked me to "study ways of responding positively and with urgency" to the requests of the parties in Burundi and of the Facilitator, particularly with regard to the designation of a Chairman for the Joint Ceasefire Commission. The Commission was provided for in the Arusha Agreement as a subsidiary organ of the Implementation Monitoring Committee, and consists of the Chairman, representatives of the Transitional Government, rebel movements and the African Union, and the Force Commander of AMIB.

More recently, in its presidential statement of 2 May 2003 (S/PRST/2003/4), the Security Council requested me to continue to support the peace process in Burundi, including the immediate and full implementation of the ceasefire agreements signed by the parties in Burundi.

To help expedite the work of the Joint Ceasefire Commission, I have appointed Colonel El Hadji Alioune Samba (Senegal) to chair the Commission. He was deployed to UNOB on 25 February 2003 and the Commission was able to commence its activities soon thereafter.

The Joint Ceasefire Commission will coordinate and resolve issues relating to the implementation of the ceasefire agreements and address military issues arising

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from the implementation period. Following the signing of the ceasefire agreements between the Government and the armed groups, it will be necessary to increase the staffing and resources of UNOB in order to enable the Chairman of the Implementation Monitoring Committee to provide the substantive and administrative support needed for the activities of the Commission. The additional staff required at this stage should include: the Commission Chairman, a civil police/rule of law adviser, two political affairs officers with peacekeeping backgrounds, one disarmament, demobilization and reintegration adviser, and the necessary support staff.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**